

The Athenian Mercury.

Saturday, October 6. 1694.

Quest. 1. **I** Am a Young Man about twenty years of Age, of mean Parentage and Education, and my Employment suitable, which in a manner necessitates me to the Conversation of those of my own rank, which is for the most part very Rude, Prophan and Foolish, both in City and Country where I have been. And my Parents, tho of the meaner, yet civiler sort, by the goodness of their Instructions and Examples have wrought in me an aversion to the rude Society of my own rank, so that I confer with them no otherwise than what I am forc'd to by way of Trade, and cannot possibly avoid; and the true sense of my own Imperfections (through the want of a good Education) which might make me acceptable to the company of the Learned and Ingenious, makes me shun all occasions of their Conversation also, and to spend my leisure hours only in realling those Books which afford me most delight and pleasure. Now when I reflect on the many hours and days which I have spent in Reading what I have not in the least profited by, I cannot but condemn myself for it; for if I had apply'd my mind to the Study of any Liberal Science, and spent but half the hours in it, that I have in vain and fruitless Books, it might by this time, have been of good Advantage to me. But because my mispent time cannot now be recall'd, I'm resolv'd (by Gods Assistance) to spend the residua of my Life in the course that you prescribe, both in my Spiritual and Secular Affairs.

I have had some small insight in the Latin Tongue, and was taught the first and second parts of the Grammar, and have a long time since earnestly desired to improve it, and learn the Third and Fourth parts, but finding the greatest motive to be Vanity, I have desisted till I heard your Advice.

If you think fit I should apply myself to Study, because I can no otherwise spend my leisure hours, be pleas'd to tell me of what, and the Books I must use both for profit and diversion, and what times are fittest for both, and how many Hours in the day for either, least I spend too much in them, which I may employ in more necessary Duties.

Ans. 'Tis impossible to be very exact in Directing you how to manage your Life, without we knew what time your Trade will permit you to spend, what your Inclinations are, and what Advantages for Study your Circumstances may allow; But as you seem to be desirous to make a good Improvement of your Time, and that 'tis not improbable but you may want some Advice for the Choice and Regulation of your Studies, we are willing to give you the best we can under these inconveniencies, and at such a distance. Piety ought to be your chiefest Care, since 'tis not only the most probable way to secure your Happiness hereafter, but also to Establish it here; for a good man is out of the reach of Fate, and you are obliged to examine that your Faith be not Implicit, but Rationally grounded, which will be best done by considering the Nature, Reasonableness, and design of Christianity. We shall only Advise you to the most Advantageous and Necessary Studies, as Divinity, Morality, Mathematicks and History; 'twill be needless to say how useful the first two are, to direct you in the Government of your self; for the third 'tis the only Study that's proper to Correct and Strengthen the Judgment, to discover to you a sure way of distinguishing Truth from the appearances of it, not only in that Science, but if well applied, in all others, and every Affair of your Life; And for the last, it is requisite in order to the acquainting you with the World, and likewise the best and most profitable diversion. You will do well to perfect the Latin Tongue, there being so many useful things in it, that are not

in English; and if you find your self incited to it through a bad principle, 'tis that you ought to Conquer, and not relinquish your design. A few Books well read will not only be of most use to you at present, but will also make you fit to judg what will be proper to succeed; for Divinity, the Bible, the whole Duty of Man, Grotius's truth of the Christian Religion, Dr. Sherlock's Two Treatises, of Death and Judgment, with Judge Hales's Contemplations; Plutarch and Seneca of Morality; in Mathematicks 'twill be best to begin with Geometry and Algebra, to which end you must get Euclid's Elements, and Kersey's Algebra, which last, tho not the best, yet it is the fittest for you, as being the plainest; For History, read Josephus, Apollonius, Tacitus, Livy, All good Antient and Modern Histories, with the Lives of the Philosophers and Fathers, &c. Be sure to give one Hour in a Day to Divinity, two to Mathematicks, and divide the rest of your time as your Inclinations and business will allow.

Quest. 2. Pray excuse this Intrusion and Avocation from more serious Thoughts; I only beg your perusal, and leave it to your Pleasure, Whether it's Fate be Oblivion, or Publication, being satisfied, it will have its due Weight in your consideration. If it passes with your Approbation, reform what is amiss before it sees the Light; I having not so carefully examin'd it.

The Kites Boys play with methinks might be improved to publick Advantage; for,

If a Kite of 5 Foot long, and 3 Foot broad will carry 3 pound weight, and a Line of 1 pound weight, I conceive a Kite of 50 foot long and 30 foot broad will carry 300 pound weight and a line of 100 weight, or a weight of 200 and a line of 200 weight; a silken line of 22 yards long, of 1 ounce weight, will bear 100 weight, 1 of 4 miles long will weigh but 200 pound weight, but if it be made to weigh 200 pound it will of 4 miles length be able to bear 1000 pound weight, which will, I conceive, be out of Danger of breaking with 400 weight.

If therefore to one of these Kites first were fastened the weight of a man, either in a log of Wood, or otherwise, a little Experience might make it practicable with men themselves, by first exposing Criminals who have forfeited their Lives to the Law, whereby they might thus make some amends to the Publick. This, if it is possible (as I see no reason to believe the contrary) would be a noble way of Spying-out the motions of Enemies Camps, and observing the posture of Cities Besieged: These would make lofty Land-marks, and by them Ships at Sea could scarce pass within 40 miles of Land undiscovered. These are the apparent Advantages, but what advances it might make (when out of the more Vigorous Magnetism (if probability may allow the supposition) of the Earth) towards Dr. Wilkins's Intent of Flying, or rather Sayling in the Air, I cannot now spare time to Argue.

Ans. 'Tis certain that a Superficies of 5 Foot long and 3 Foot broad bearing 3 pound weight, will be similar to a Superficies of 50 Foot long and 30 Foot broad, and if we estimate the respective weights that both can bear, according to the Squares of their Homologous parts, we shall find that the first bearing 3 pound weight, the last will bear 300; but we think it very reasonable to exclude the Weight of the Line (tho if the weight thereof must be calculated, it ought to be in Triplicate Proportion either of their length or thickness) for 'tis certain that a piece of a Line weighs less than the whole, and yet the Line bears the whole easier

easier than a part, that is, supposing a Kite mounted 150 yards high, and 100 yards Horizontal distance, the length of the Kite will be 180.3 Yards near: if the Kite be let at liberty 100 Yards more, the added weight of the String will be so far from retarding it, that it assists it to pull much harder; and the Reason of it is very evident, for there is at the second length not only a greater Torrent of Air, beating against, and consequently buoying up the Kite, but also against the String. Again, the strength of the string is not necessary, as generally suppos'd, to be so great, especially if manag'd (not with the Hand; but) with a Ring and a Stick, after the manner of Trolling for Pikes: 'Tis true, great allowances must be made for the strength of the Torrent of Air; nor will the same string be proper for a strong and weak wind. Little can any one imagine, that has not experienc'd it, how little strength, with a pliable good Angle, will manage a Fish of two Foot long in the water; and the present Instance is much of the same nature. But to the application; He must be a very good Rope-Dancer, or an Old Sailer, that should adventure to sail thus in the Air; for a little by-blast of wind, will throw a Kite 3, 4 or 5 score Yards on one side, in 2 or 3 seconds of a minute, if the Kite be a pretty height, and wind strong: This is so common, that every boy that uses a Kite, can tell you as much. Such a violent motion would certainly be prejudicial to the brain, and affect it with a strange dizziness, if it did not absolutely stifle the party. As for Bishop Wilkins Voyage to the World in the Moon, we think it one of the greatest Impossibilities an ingenious man could be guilty of imagining; but for flying several miles swiftly and conveniently enough, we do not despair of the possibility thereof, especially if set upon by ingenious persons, who are well acquainted with the mechanical parts of Mathematicks, and well skill'd in all sort of proportions; which is all we can at present advance about this subject.

A Continuation Of that CATALOGUE OF New Books

Inserted in last Saturdays Mercury.

Printed for JOHN DUNTON, who is Remov'd from the Poultry, to the Raven in Tewel-Street, where you may have Money for any Library, or Parcel of Books; as also Entire Setts of Athenian Gazetts, or single Mercuries, to compleat Setts, and all other New Peices publish'd from time to time. Here is also Sold Elixir Stomachicum, or the great Cordial Elixir for the Stomach. — This is further to give Notice, that all Questions sent to the Athenian Society, must be now Directed to JOHN DUNTON, living at the place afore-said.

Practical Peices.

The benefit of a well ordered conversation, as it was deliver'd in a Sermon on a day of publick Hu-

miliation; as also a Funeral Discourse, occasion'd by the Death of the Worshipful Major General Denison, by Mr. William Hubbard. To which is annexed an Irenicon, or a Salve for New England's sore, penned by the said Major General, and left behind him as his Farewell; and last advice to his Friends of the Massachusetts.

Casistical morning-Exercises, the 4th Volume, by several Ministers in and about London, preached in October 1689. — *The Cases resolved are*, viz. — *Serm. 1.* How may we give Christ a satisfying account why we attend upon the Ministry of the Word? — *2.* Wherein, and wherefore will the damnation of those that perish under the Gospel be more intolerable than the damnation of Sodom, or the worst of Heathens at the Day of Judgment? — *3.* How may the uncharitable and dangerous contentions that are amongst professors of the True Religion, be allayed? — *4.* From what Fear of Death are the children of God delivered by Christ, and by what means doth he deliver them from it? — *5.* How is Gospel-Grace the best motive to Holiness? — *6.* What is the Fullness of God which every true Christian ought to pray and strive to be filled with? — *7.* How are the ordinary means of Grace more certainly successful for conversion, than if persons from Heaven or Hell should tell us what is done there? — *8.* How may it convincingly appear, that those who think it an easie matter to believe, are yet destitute of saving Faith? — *9.* What is the danger of a death-bed Repentance? — *10.* How doth practical Godliness better rectifie the Judgment than doubtful disputations? — *11.* How is sin the most Formidable Evil? — *12.* How may private Christians be most helpful to promote the entertainment of the Gospel? — *13.* How is Christ to be followed as our Example? — *14.* How may a Lukewarm Temper be most effectually cured? — *15.* What is the duty of Magistrates, from the highest to the lowest, for the suppressing of prophaneness? — *16.* How may we enquire after News, not as Athenians, but as Christians, for the better managing of our prayers and praises for the Church of God? — *17.* Wherein may we more hopefully attempt the conversion of young persons more than of any others? — *18.* What Repentance of National sins doth God require, as ever we expect National mercies?

Practical Discourses on Sickness and Recovery, in several Sermons, as they were lately Preached in a Congregation in London, by T. Rogers, M. A. after his Recovery from a Sickness of near two Years continuance.

Early Religion, or a Discourse of the Duty and Interest of Truth; with some Advices to Parents and Aged People, to promote it in their several Capacities. The second Edition, much enlarged.

Fall not out by the way, or a perswasion to a Friendly Correspondence between the Conformists and Nonconformists, in a Funeral Discourse on Gen. 45. 24. occasioned by the desire of Mr. Anthony Dunwell in his last will. All three written by T. Rogers, M. A.

The Mourners Companion: Or Funeral Discourses on several Texts, by John Shower.

The Life of the Reverend Mr. Thomas Brand; with his Funeral Sermon. Written by Dr. Annesley. Price bound 1s.

An earnest Call to Family catechism and Reformation, by a Reverend Divine. Several Ministers and Private Christians perusing this Peice, earnestly moved for its publication, which the Reverend Author at last consenting to: The following Proposals are now made for the general Dispersing of it, viz. That whatsoever Gentleman will be so publick spirited as to give 50 of them away, they shall have that number for 20s. stitched up in blew paper, and ready cut, but as for others who buy lesser Numbers, they must not expect them under 6d. per Book.

Mensalia Sacra, or Meditations on the Lords Supper; wherein the Nature of the Holy Sacrament is Explained, and the most weighty cases of Conscience about it are Resolved. By the Reverend Mr. Francis Crow, late Minister of the Gospel at Clare in Suffolk. To which is prefixt a brief Account of the Authors Life and Death. By Mr. Henry Cutts.

Comfort for Parents mourning over their Hopeful children that dye Young; in a Funeral Discourse upon Jer. 31. 17. And there is hope in thine End; saith the Lord. By Tho.

Tho. Whitaker, Minister at Leeds in Yorkshire: with a Prefatory Epistle by T. Rogers M. A.

Man made Righteous by Christ's Obedience: Being two Sermons at Pinner's-Hall with Enlargements, &c. Also some Remarks on Mr. Mather's Postscript, &c. By Daniel Williams.

Gospel Truth Stated and Vindicated; wherein some of Dr. Crisp's Opinions are considered, and the opposite Truths are plainly stated and confirmed. The 2d. Edit.

A Defence of Gospel Truth: being a Reply to Mr. Chantey.

The Vanity of childhood and Youth; wherein the depraved Nature of Young People is represented, and means for their Reformation proposed; being some Sermons preached at the request of several Young men.

A Discourse shewing what Repentance of National Sins God requires, if ever we expect National mercies; all written by Daniel Williams.

Heads of Agreement assented to by the United Ministers in and about London, formerly called Presbyterian and Congregational.

The agreement in Doctrine among the Dissenting Ministers in London; subscrib'd Decemb. 16. 1692.

The sense of the United Ministers in and about London, concerning some of the Erroneous Doctrines, and Irregular Practices of Mr. Richard Davis, at Rothwel in Northamptonshire.

The Countries concurrence with the London United Ministers, in the late Heads of Agreement; shewing the Nature and Advantages of a general Union among Protestants; delivered to an Assembly of Ministers in the County of Southampton, by Samuel Chandler.

A peaceable Inquiry into the Nature of the present controversy among the United Brethren, containing the excellency of Peace and Love: Luther's Opinion of it: The mischief of Strife and Contentions in the Church, instanced in the Rise and Progress of the Miletians and Arians: The Cure difficult, yet necessary to be endeavoured: The Improvement to be made of former Divisions: An Inquiry into the present Controversy, whether about the Substance of Truth, or the manner only of declaring it: That great Divisions have been among such as have agreed in the same Principles. This the present Case among the United Brethren proved; with several other particulars. Written by Stephen Lobb, a Lover of Peace and Truth. Price 1s. 6d.

A Practical Discourse on the late Earthquakes, with an Historical Account of Prodigies, and their various effects: by a Reverend Divine. Price 6d.

Tri-Unity, or the Doctrine of the Holy Trinity asserted, in a Discourse on 2 Cor. 13. 14. By Isaac Mauduit Minister of the Gospel. Price 6d.

The frailty and uncertainty of the Life of Man, delivered in a Sermon at the Funeral of a Person that Died suddenly.

The Celestial Race; a Discourse perswading to the practice of Celerity, Constancy, and Sincerity in the Ways of God; Preached at the Funeral of Mrs. Elizabeth Knock, who died in the 11th year of her Age. These two last are Written by William Bush, Minister of the Gospel.

The day of Jubilee, or a plain and practical Discourse of the Saints gathering together, and of their meeting the Lord of Glory at his second Coming, on 1 Thess. 4. 17. By John Brandon, Rector of Finchamsted.

The Good Old cause; or the Divine Captain Characterized; In a Sermon not preached. Nor needful to be

preached in any place so properly as in a Camp; by Edmund Hickerlingal, Rector of the Rectory of All-Saints in Colchester.

The Saints Readiness for their Lords coming: A Funeral Discourse occasion'd by the sudden Death of that Faithful Minister of Christ, Mr. John Oakes.

The Souls return to its God in Life, and at Death; A Funeral Sermon, preached upon occasion of the Death of Mr. John Kent, late of Crutcher-Fryers. These two last are Written by Mr. Samuel Slater.

Mr. Rothwels Vindication of Infant Baptism, with a publick Conference on that Subject.

The Young man's claim to the Sacrament, by John Quick, Minister of the Gospel,

The Tragedies of sin, contemplated in the Ruine of the Angels, Fall of man, destruction of the Old World, confusion of Babel, conflagration of Sodom. Humbly recommended to the present Age for the designed Ends of caution and Terror. Together with Remarks on the Life of Great Abraham, by Stephen Fay, Rector of Chinner, in the County of Oxon.

Daniel in the Den, or the Lord President's Imprisonment, and his miraculous deliverance; dedicated to the late Earl of Shaftsbury, by Stephen Fay, Rector of Chinner.

Books concerning the Quakers.

A True Account of the Proceedings, Sense and Advice of the People called Quakers. At the yearly meeting of Faithful Friends and Brethren, begun in London, on the 28th of the 3d month, 1694. and held by adjournment unto the 11th of the month following, in order to put an End to the Divisions and Differences among some of the people called Quakers in America. To which is added an account of the proceedings of the Yearly meeting at Burlington, relating to the said Differences; shewing the Dis-harmony of the two said meetings. As also some Queries to that party of the Yearly meeting at London, who gave the aforesaid Judgment.

The Tryals of Peter Boss, George Keith, Thomas Budd, and William Bradford, Quakers, for several great misdemeanors (as was pretended by their Adversaries) before a Court of Quakers, at the Sessions held at Philadelphia, in Pennsylvania, the 9th, 10th, and 12th days of December, 1692. Giving also an Account of the most Arbitrary procedure of that Court.

Some of the Quakers Principles and Doctrines, Laws and Orders, &c. Reprinted for the sake of such as have not as yet seen them, or that have not duly weigh'd and consider'd the Tendency [and dangerous consequence] of many of them.

An account of the great divisions amongst the Quakers in Pennsylvania, &c. As appears by their own Book, here following, printed 1692. and lately came from thence, intituled, viz. The plea of the Innocent, against the false Judgment of the Guilty. Being a Vindication of Geo. Keith, and his Friends, who are joined with him in this present Testimony, from the False Judgment, calumnies, false Informations and Defamations of Samuel Jennings, John Simcock, Thomas Lloyd, and others, joined with them, being in Number 28. Directed by way of Epistle to Faithful Friends of Truth, in Pennsylvania, East and West-Jersey, and elsewhere, as occasion requireth.

A farther account of the great Divisions among the Quakers in Pennsylvania, &c. As appears by another of their Books lately come over from thence, intituled, Some Reasons and causes of the late separation, that hath come to pass at Philadelphia, betwixt us, called by some, The separate meetings; and others that meet apart from us: more particularly opened, to vindicate and clear us and

our Testimony in that respect, viz. That the separation lieth at their door, and they (and not we) are justly chargable with it. With an Apology for the present publication of these things.

More divisions amongst the Quakers: As appears by the following books of their own writing, viz. 1. *The Christian Faith of New England Quakers, condemn'd by a meeting of Pensilvanian Quakers.* 2. *The false Judgment of a Yearly meeting of Quakers in Maryland, condemn'd by George Keith, Thomas Budd, &c. all Quakers.* To which is added, a discovery of this mystery of Iniquity, by *George Keith*.

The Judgment given forth by 28 Quakers against Geo. Keith, and his Friends. With Answers to the said Judgment, declaring those 28 Quakers to be No Christians. As also an Appeal (for which several were imprisoned, &c.) by the said *George Keith, &c.* to the Yearly meeting, Sept. 1692. With a full account of the said Yearly meeting, signed by 70 Quakers.

The causeless ground of Surmises, Jealousies and unjust Offences removed, in a full clearing of Faithful Friends, and a sober Vindication of my Innocency, and the Friends concerned with me; in relation to the late Religious Differences and Breaches among some of the people called *Quakers in America.* By *George Keith*.

In several of these Eight forementioned peices concerning the Quakers, some of their Ancient Ministers and Friends accuse others of their ministers and Friends as being No Christians, charging them with damnable Heresies and Doctrines of Devils, &c. A great quantity of these books being lately come over in order to sale, the chief Quakers in London bought them all up, designing to stifle them, which occasions their being Re-printed.

Miscellaneous and Historical Peices.

A Narrative of the Dissenters Plot in the Year 1690. with a large and exact Relation of all their old ones. Together with an account of the chief Conspirators Names, and principal consults, as well as of several persons of Quality, who have abetted and encouraged them. By one who was deeply concerned therein. This peice was *Licensed*, and is a *Witty Irony*, clearing the Dissenters from those ill designs against the Government, and of subverting the Church of England, which the Tories charged them with in the Year 1690. But by being misunderstood by them, it made a great noise in the World in the year 1690. which was the time when 'twas first Publish'd.

A Discovery of the horrid Association and Conspiracy of the Papists in Lancashire, about the year 1692 In a Letter of Instruction from a *Roman Catholick* of great Quality in London, to a *Papist Mutineer* in Lancashire. Price 6d. This is not only a *sensible Peice*, but is perhaps as great a piece of Wit has seen the Light these many years.

The History of the Royal Congress at the Hague, with the Names, Characters, and Equipage of the Sovereign Princes that compos'd that most August Assembly, together with an Account of the glorious Canopy and Chair of State. The several curious and admirable Fire-works, the many Triumphal Arches, with the other vast preparations which were made for his Majesty of *Great Britain*, with an exact draught of the manner of King *William's* entring into the *Hague*, and reception by the States-General. Translated from the *Dutch Copy*, printed at *Lyden*.

Remarks on the Tryals of the Lord Preston and Mr. Ashton. By a Gentleman who was present at those Tryals.

Remarks upon the Life, Tryal, and Acquishment of Arthur Earl of Torrington.

The Life and Military Actions of Richard Earl of Tyrconnell, with a brief Description of the Kingdom of Ireland.

The Character of a Williamite, by a Divine of the Church of England. Price 6d.

The Character of a Jacobite; by a person of Quality, price 6d.

Books now in the Press, and going to it, Printed for John Dunton at the Raven in Jewen Street, Viz.

NEXT Tuesday will be Published that long expected peice, entituled, *The Knowledge of the World, or the Art of well Educating Youth through the various Conditions of Life, by way of Letters to a Noble Lord.* Vol. I. To be continu'd in that method till the whole Design is Finish'd. Of which a Full Account is given in the Preface to this Work. Printed first at *Paris*, afterwards Re-printed at *Amsterdam*, and now Translating into English by an able Hand.

The second Volume of *Malbranches* search after Truth, &c.

A Narrative of the Life and Death of Mr. Mason, late Minister of *Water-Stratford.* Sold by *J. L. F. D.* and *W. L.*

A Vindication of Bishop Barlows Remains, proving them to be all Genuine, and many of 'em to be Publish'd upon the Bishops own desire.

The Arraignment of Worldly Philosophy; or the False Wisdom: Its being a great hindrance to the Christian Faith, and a great Enemy to the true Divine Wisdom. By *George Keith*.

The present State of the Empire of Morocco. Written in French by *Monsieur St. Olon*, the French King's Ambassador. Lately publish'd at *Paris*, and Re-printed in Holland.

Spectral Thoughts, &c.

*** * *** ALL the New Peices mentioned in this and the last Catalogue, are Sold by John Dunton at the Raven in Jewen-street, where is also to be had those other Peices he formerly and lately Printed, tho (for want of room) they could not be inserted here.

THE Removal of our Bookseller to the Raven in Jewen-street, has occasion'd him to insert in last Saturdays Mercury, and also here, this Catalogue of New Books (being all of his own Printing) to direct persons where they might come for them; so that we had not room to insert more then (4) Questions in this and the aforesaid Mercury, but shall make sufficient amends in our following Papers.

Advertisement.

THAT Ingenious *Pindarick Lady* who formerly sent many Poetical Questions to the Athenian Society, is desir'd now to send all those Poems she formerly mention'd.—Directed to our Bookseller at the Raven in Jewen Street.

LONDON, Printed for John Dunton at the Raven in Jewen-Street, 1694